

MOTION BY MAYOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

July 18, 2006

NON-CUSTODIAL PARENTS

The Permanent Partners Program (P3) continues to be a successful program in foster children being reunified with birth parents, connected with adults who have expressed an interest in adoptions or potential legal guardianships. However, in the case of Melinda, the daughter of Thomas Smith, it is apparent that County Departments must strengthen the coordination and collaboration of parent reunification when a child enters the foster care system.

I, THEREFORE MOVE, that the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Direct the Office of Independent Review (OIR) to investigate the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Child Support Department's steps taken in the Melinda T. case, with a report back to the Board on its findings and recommendations for improvement.
- 2) Direct the CAO to work with the New Directions Task Force to develop an action plan that strengthens the coordination and collaboration of DCFS, Mental Health, Health, Public and Social Services, and Child Support Department, in searching for non-custodial parents at the point-of-entry of a child in the foster care system; and,
- 3) Direct the Child Support Department to work with County Counsel, DCFS, in establishing a tracking system to find non-custodial parents paying for child support as a process of reunifying children during the point of entry of the foster care system.

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BURKE	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
KNABE	_____
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